
**ARRANGEMENTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF
SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND EXTENDED SERVICES 4.8(b)(4)**

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is purchasing services from 16 private non-profit providers, two private-for-profit agencies and one public agency for the provision of supported employment services and extended services. Representatives from DVR, Developmental Disabilities Division and the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse previously conducted regional visits to providers and regional staff. The purpose was to assess the program needs and funding requirements. Based on the results, new supported employment guidelines and outcome-based reimbursement methods were implemented the beginning of FFY 2008. These guidelines continue to be reviewed as needed. In addition, upon input from providers, the Division has built in an annual 3% inflationary increase to rates for SEP.

All units that purchase extended services fall under the administrative control of the North Dakota Department of Human Services and have developed a Memorandum of Understanding. During this past year, the units were focused on securing a contract to provide extended services. The contract was granted to Rocky Mountain Rehab PC and is being managed by the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. In cooperation with the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, DVR participated in a supported employment pilot project in one of the regional offices. The project uses an evidence-based supported employment model for consumers with the dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse. The project began March 2009. Due to the positive outcomes, the project has been expanded into two additional regions. The DVR state office program administrator responsible for supported employment is involved with the project. Regional VR staff are involved with the fidelity review teams.